

Arizona Healthy Forest Initiative

Arizona will have more boots on the ground to prevent wildfires under a bill signed by Governor Doug Ducey.

The legislation creates a new partnership, employing Arizona inmates to clear forests of debris. The program is a win-win: forests will be healthier and inmates will have new skills setting them up for employment once they are released.

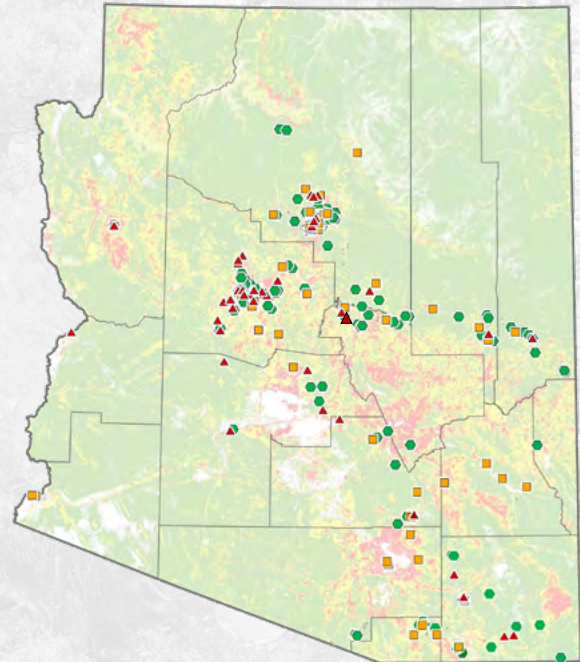
After the signing, the Governor reiterated the importance of the \$24.5 million appropriation and looks forward to working with the Legislature to include this piece as part of a comprehensive budget package.

“As I shared in my State of the State address, guarding against wildfires is an important issue that requires a new strategy for the state. That new strategy of taking additional steps to reduce wildfire risk to Arizona communities is reflected in the Arizona Healthy Forest Initiative.

I want to extend my gratitude to the sponsors of this legislation, Senator Kerr and Representative Griffin, and to all of the legislators supporting this critical mission. I am very pleased to sign Senate Bill 1442 today, and look forward to working with the legislature to complete the other necessary pieces of this ongoing effort to protect our forests and communities.

Governor Doug Ducey

Wildfire Risk Reduction Projects (2013-2021)



▲ Planned (43) ■ In Progress (47) ● Completed (181)

The Arizona Healthy Forest Initiative addresses the risk of wildfires through three related components:

- Creating greater state capacity to reduce wildfire fuels around our communities (\$22.3 million in FY 22 Budget)
- Making greater use of partner capacity to reduce wildfire fuels (\$2.2 million in FY 22 Budget)
- Increasing partnerships to reduce wildfire risks on federal lands neighboring our communities (SB 1442)



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What They Are Saying About the Arizona Healthy Forest Initiative



New program aims to rehabilitate Arizonans in prison and prevent wildfires



New strategy to stomp out Arizona wildfires



State Healthy Forest Initiative aims to reduce wildfire risk



State trains more inmates as wildland firefighters ahead of fire season



Law puts low-risk Arizona inmates to work on wildfire prevention



State looks to use inmates to help fight wildfires



Bill To Expand Arizona Inmate Wildfire Fuels Crews Signed Into Law



Governor Ducey Applauds The "Healthy Forest Initiative" Passed This Week

"This legislation will strengthen our fight against wildfires and provide additional resources to our firefighters. Wildfire season poses serious threats year after year, and it's important that we prepare ahead of time to protect at-risk areas, the environment, lives and property."

Representative Gail Griffin
LD 14 - Sierra Vista

"Every year, wildfires threaten our communities and beautiful landscapes. This legislation provides additional resources to prevent and combat wildfires, while expanding opportunities for individuals in correctional facilities. My thanks to Governor Ducey for supporting these crucial efforts."

Senator Sine Kerr
LD13 - Buckeye

Facts and Figures

- 978,519 acres burned in 2020
- \$24.5 million - FY22 funds needed to create increased hazardous vegetation removal capacity through ADCCR-DFFM program and partner grants.
- 500% - projected increase in the number of acres receiving treatment under AZHFI
- 240 ADCCR inmates participating in existing ADCCR-DFFM wildfire program
- 30 - Post-release Inmates Hired By The State Of Arizona

